

PROCESSOR SUB-COUNCIL
Friday February 20, 2015
12.00pm – 2.00pm
The Old Woolstore, Hobart

MINUTES

Welcome:

Mark welcomed the members at this hectic time after the Chinese New Year.

Attendance:

Mark Daft (Chair), Alan Hansen, Steven Bartels, Tim Bygrave, Darvin Hansen, Stephen Sandrey, Vince Puleo, Jimmy He, Dean Lisson (CE), Jillian Freeman (minutes)
Observer, Bev Amos

Apologies:

John Ramsden, Adrian Cuthbertson,

Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved to accept the minutes of the Sub-Council AGM held on September 5, 2014 having been circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

Business arising from previous meeting:

Discussed further as agenda items.

Progress of moratorium:

Now called a cap, meetings have been held with the Minister who is asking for real reasons to control the number of processors. Darvin Hansen, Adrian Cuthbertson, and Mark Daft have put together a list of processors who have closed down over the last 20 years.

The dive and quota-holder sectors of the industry are capped but the processing sector is open ended. The cost of setting up a processing facility is high without any security of investment in the industry.

The Report '*AN INQUIRY INTO THE CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE OF THE TASMANIAN ABALONE PROCESSING INDUSTRY*' By Bruce Felmingham completed in March 2014 was a valid snapshot of the processing sector.

This issue is to be discussed in a meeting with the Minister on Tuesday February 24th with a view to giving Minister Rockliff an understanding of the sector.

PBSA regulations and Act – there are issues at the implementation stage.

Guidelines and protocols (AWA) clients:

Meetings with overseas buyers; Mark has developed a set of industry protocols for further meetings, terms of trade and protocols. This document will be distributed to the Processor Members.

Action: distribute buyer protocols to processors
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Dispatch Docket Book Changes: (compliance and fishery monitoring)

There have been many complaints about the weigh sheet book, which has been issued by DPIPWE. The time taken to unload a motherboat has increased due to the weighing of each bin; there is concern about the amount of information required and the number of pages taken for each load.

Weigh sheets – records of bin weights and abalone weights at the point of landing is a legislative requirement, these requirements are not new but a better way of recording the information, a copy of the weigh sheet is given to the diver for their records, and once the sheet is removed from the book the information is committed. If police are inspecting a transport vehicle they will have confidence when checking the documentation.

The docket book is under review and expects a newer version to be released.

General Business:

NSW ban of fish is still in force and may not change in the future. The CVO's of each state have regular meetings concerning any issues. The Tasmanian CVO has been working with the NSW CVO to lift the ban with no success. Prices for frozen greenlip into Hong Kong have increased.

Bin Weights – it was noted that a bin weight of 63kg is too high and is an OH&S issue for the divers.

Quality Assurance Code of Practise and Dive Code of Practise; TACL will be organising a day for the training and updating of skills for divers, deckhands, drivers and factory staff. Seafood Training Tasmania will be conducting the QACoP. Andrew Tabour (Southern Tas Divers) has recently updated the DCoP to the new standards. It is a requirement under Workplace Standards that divers be up to date with current OH&S practises to comply with the Legislation.

<p>ACTION: TACL send a letter to all members stating the requirements and obligations under Workplace Standards.</p>

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Deckhands – there has been a shortage recently.

Mark Daft has not been appointed to the AbFAC and will be standing down as Chairman after the Minister's meeting.

Another sub-council meeting will be scheduled after the Minister's meeting.

Meeting closed at 1:20pm

New Actions:

1. Distribute buyer protocols to processors
2. Send a letter to all members stating the requirements and obligations under Workplace Standards.